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CALIFORNIA POPS ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES THE SEASON WITH “POPS’ FAMILY CHRISTMAS” DECEMBER 18, 2016

(NOVEMBER 20, 2016, Palo Alto, CA) - California Pops Orchestra, the country's only all-request pops orchestra, celebrates the holiday season with “Pops’ Family Christmas” at Cupertino's Flint Center. Part of the Pops’ 28th performance season, “Pops’ Family Christmas” performs one time only on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 3 p.m. For tickets (\$20-\$55, standard ticket service fees apply), the public can visit www.ticketmaster.com or call (650) 856-8432.

A beloved family tradition, the annual Christmas show is full of sleigh bells, musical memories, toy trumpets, and good cheer - not to mention well-loved holiday hits from Broadway, TV, Big Band, Hollywood, and traditional Christmas favorites. Children are often delighted to be included in the Pops fun, and there's also a carol-sing-along. The warm and friendly feeling that's present in every Pops concert makes the holiday show feel like spending time with the great big extended Pops family.

Although many favorite holiday songs and traditional carols originated in Europe in the 1700s and 1800s – and some, dating back as far as the Middle Ages (“The First Noel,” 13th century) – Americans came into their own during the time period between the Great Depression through the post-war 1950s. Much of this new holiday music was secular, introduced to audiences through movies, radio, and television, and often made popular by the people who performed it, rather than the composers.

Irving Berlin's “White Christmas” made its debut in the 1942 movie “Holiday Inn,” and was most famously sung by Bing Crosby. Its initial rendition took only 18 minutes to record – since then, there are reportedly over 500 recorded versions of this song in more than 12 different languages. “White Christmas” remains the biggest-selling Christmas song of all time. Another Bing Crosby favorite, “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” (1943), was composed during the height of WWII, reflecting the longing of soldiers wanting to return home to be with their loved ones.

“Winter Wonderland” was first recorded by Guy Lombardo in 1934, and became a big hit again in 1950 when it was recorded by the Andrews Sisters. “Santa Claus is Comin’ to Town” was one of the first ‘kiddie’ songs introduced through the radio, circa 1933. “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” was composed in 1944 for the movie “Meet Me In St. Louis,” starring Judy Garland: one line from the original version, *“until then we’ll have to muddle through somehow,”* was later changed to *“hang a shining star upon the highest bough,”* in order to make the song more hopeful and less bittersweet. [source: Psychology Today]

All these, plus favorites from “Miracle on 34th Street,” “Frosty the Snowman,” “The Grinch Who Stole Christmas,” and many other popular carols and songs are sure to fill audiences with the holiday spirit.

California Pops Orchestra has spent nearly three decades proving that orchestral performances by highly trained and talented musicians do not have to be stuffy affairs! The Pops includes many of the Bay Area’s leading musicians with training from very

distinguished conservatories including Oberlin, Julliard, and the Eastman School of Music. The Pops also draws from talented musicians who also happen to be scientists, educators, engineers, marketers, technology leaders, and other highly creative individuals. This diversity in background plus a single-minded purpose makes the Pops a delight to play with and a never-ending source of ideas, inspiration, and humor. California Pops Orchestra's musicians and featured guests bring fun, family-friendly shows to the live stage with selections from the full range of the popular music repertoire. Every one of the Pops performers loves the music of Broadway musicals, television, Hollywood movies, jazz, pop, comic novelties, and big band. This popular music is often scored for a unique set of instruments found in movie and recording studios but not in classical symphony orchestras: so concerts often include flugelhorns, a saxophone section, harmonicas, congas, whips, theramins, accordions, and other colorful instruments. For more information, visit www.calpops.org.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: California Pops Orchestra, the country's only all-request pops orchestra, celebrates the holidays with **"Pops' Family Christmas."** The annual Christmas show full of sleigh bells, musical memories, toy trumpets, and good cheer, features holiday hits from Broadway, TV, Big Band, and Hollywood, as well as traditional Christmas favorites and a carol-sing-along. Children are often delighted to be included in the Pops fun, especially during the holidays. The warm and friendly feeling that's present in every Pops concert makes the holiday show feel like spending time with the great big extended Pops family.

WHEN: Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 3 p.m.

WHERE: Flint Center at De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino

TICKETS: For tickets (\$20-\$55, standard ticket service fees apply), visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com> or call (650) 856-8432.

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